

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2780

To require an electronic database of information on the incidence of suicide among members of the Armed Forces.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 13, 2008

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require an electronic database of information on the incidence of suicide among members of the Armed Forces.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ELECTRONIC DATABASE OF INFORMATION ON**
4 **THE INCIDENCE OF SUICIDE AMONG MEM-**
5 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

6 (a) DATABASE REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8 of Defense shall, acting through the Assistant Secretary
9 of Defense for Health Affairs and in coordination with the
10 Secretaries of the military departments, establish and

1 maintain an electronic database on the incidence of suicide
2 and attempted suicide among members of the Armed
3 Forces on active duty, including the information specified
4 in subsection (c).

5 (b) COVERAGE OF DEMOBILIZED MEMBERS OF RE-
6 SERVE COMPONENTS.—To the extent practicable, the
7 members of the Armed Forces covered by the database
8 required under subsection (a) shall include members of the
9 National Guard and Reserve who are demobilized from ac-
10 tive duty during the 720-day period beginning on the date
11 of their demobilization.

12 (c) INFORMATION.—The information to be included
13 in the database required by subsection (a) shall include,
14 to the extent practicable, the following:

15 (1) For each Armed Force—

16 (A) the number of members on active duty
17 who have attempted suicide; and

18 (B) the number of members on active duty
19 who have committed suicide.

20 (2) For each member who commits or attempts
21 suicide, the following:

22 (A) The sex of the member.

23 (B) The race or ethnicity of the member.

24 (C) The Armed Force of the member.

1 (D) The grade, military occupational spe-
2 cialty, duty status, and duty location of the
3 member at the time of the attempt.

4 (E) The physical location of the member at
5 the time of the attempt.

6 (F) A descriptive summary of any combat
7 experience of the member, including the loca-
8 tion of such experience, the intensity and dura-
9 tion of such experience, and the time between
10 the last such experience and the attempt.

11 (G) The highest level of education achieved
12 by the member.

13 (H) Any mental health condition, including
14 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Trau-
15 matic Brain Injury (TBI), or substance use dis-
16 order, diagnosed or otherwise detected in the
17 member.

18 (I) A descriptive summary of any previous
19 psychological care or treatment received by the
20 member for a condition under subparagraph
21 (H) or another mental health condition.

22 (J) A descriptive summary of any family
23 history of the member of mental illness, suicide,
24 or both.

1 (K) A descriptive summary of any physical
2 or sexual abuse suffered by the member.

3 (L) A descriptive summary of any recent
4 marital or other relationship difficulties of the
5 member.

6 (M) A descriptive summary of any recent
7 disciplinary actions taken against the member.

8 (N) A descriptive summary of any recent
9 legal difficulties of the member.

10 (O) A descriptive summary of any recent
11 financial or employment difficulties of the mem-
12 ber.

13 (P) A description of any prior communica-
14 tions of suicidal intent by the member.

15 (3) Such other information as the Secretary
16 considers appropriate for purposes of the database.

17 (d) SEPARATE INFORMATION ON EACH ATTEMPT.—
18 Each attempted suicide of a member of the Armed Forces
19 (whether or not completed) shall be treated as a separate
20 attempt at suicide for purposes of subsection (c)(2).

21 (e) UPDATES.—The database required by subsection
22 (a) shall be updated on a continuing basis.

23 (f) REPORTS.—

24 (1) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
25 90 days after the establishment of the database re-

1 quired by subsection (a), and every 90 days there-
2 after, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee
3 on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee
4 on Armed Services of the House of Representatives
5 a report setting forth the following:

6 (A) Aggregated data on the incidence of
7 suicide among members of the Armed Forces
8 on active duty.

9 (B) An assessment of recent trends in sui-
10 cides and attempted suicides among members of
11 the Armed Forces on active duty.

12 (2) AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC.—Each report
13 under paragraph (1) shall be made available to the
14 public through the Internet website of the Assistant
15 Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs that is avail-
16 able to the public.

17 (3) PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMA-
18 TION.—The information in any report under para-
19 graph (1) shall not include any personal information
20 or personally-identifying information on any member
21 of the Armed Forces covered by the database.

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